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ONLY BENEFICIARIES CAN FILE DEFICIENCY IN SERVICE PLEA

The Supreme Court said not everyone can file a complaint against a hospital/doctor on behalf of other family members

LIMITS TO THE CONCEPT OF JOINT HINDU FAMILY

The court dismissed the plaint of the head (karta) of a Joint Hindu Family (JHF) on the ground that under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986, he was not the beneficiary of the service availed of from a hospital. "The concept of JHF doesn't extend to the treatment of a pregnant sister in-law," a bench of justices Hemant Gupta and V Ramasubramaian said

DEFINITION OF A COMPLAINANT

- The SC noted the karta didn't fit the definition of a complainant in the strict sense as it meant any person who hired or availed of any services for a payment and included a beneficiary of services
- The karta had filed a complaint against a clinic alleging deficiency in service in the treatment given to his sister-in-law

2009

NATIONAL CONSUMER DISPUTES PANEL HAD DISMISSED THE COMPLAINT

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Cong plays SC card, chooses Channi

Was technical education minister in the outgoing govt; had revolted against Amarinder; to take oath of office and secrecy at 11 am today

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Chandigarh

ENDING intense speculation on Capt Amarinder Singh's successor a day after he was forced to resign, Charanjit Singh Channi (58), a member of the Scheduled Caste community, was on Sunday elected the Punjab Congress Legislative Party leader. He will take oath of office and secrecy as chief minister at 11 am on Monday.

He is comparatively a political lightweight and will hold office for just a few months before the state goes to polls early next year, one reason why Punjab Congress president Navjot Singh Sidhu was happy with the choice.

Earlier in the day, AICC observers had approved a proposal to elevate Sukhjinder Singh Randhawa as chief minister, but Sidhu spiked it, as the former was seen as a heavyweight who could overshadow him in the run-up to the Assembly elections.

Channi, the technical education minister in the outgoing ministry, was the dark horse in the race. He will be the first SC (Ramdasia Sikh) leader ever to become the chief minister of the state that has already had 15 CMs. A three-time MLA from the Chamkaur Sahib constituency, he was Leader of Opposition from 2015 to 2016.

CHANNI'S JOURNEY

- The 58-year-old is the first Dalit CM to lead Punjab
- Three-time legislator from the Chamkaur Sahib Assembly constituency
- Joined Congress in 2012 and held multiple portfolios in the earlier Amarinder Singh cabinet
- Had rebelled against Amarinder, siding with the Navjot Singh Sidhu camp

Charanjit Singh Channi

His appointment in the Jat-dominated Punjab politics would change the dynamics in the run-up to the Assembly elections, as SCs have 32% vote share in the state.

Sources said the decision to appoint an SC as the CLP leader came after hours of deliberations on the best possible combination to represent all communities, castes and regions in the state.

Channi was among the four cabinet ministers and several Congress legislators who had raised a banner of revolt against Amarinder Singh saying they do not have faith in him as he has not fulfilled promises made before the 2017 Assembly polls.

He had then said that several ministers and MLAs have expressed concern over the unfulfilled promises, including delay in justice in the sacrilege case and the subsequent police firing in 2015, scrapping power purchase agreements and arrest of the big fish involved in drug mafia.

Flanked by Sidhu and AICC Punjab in-charge Harish Rawat outside Raj Bhavan after meeting Governor Banwarilal Purohit to stake his claim to lead the government, Channi said, "The oath-taking ceremony will take place at 11 am on Monday."

Bid to draw vote banks that drifted away over the years

HARPREET BAJWA @Chandigarh

BY passing the chief minister's baton to Charanjit Singh Channi, the Congress high command appears to be making attempts to win back the SC and OBC vote banks that drifted away from the party across the country over the years. If all goes well, Channi could be projected as the party's Dalit face in polls elsewhere, too.

At 32%, Punjab has the highest SC population in the country. Add to that the 18% strength of the backward classes, and they form a sizeable vote bank. "With Navjot Singh Sidhu, a Jat Sikh, as Punjab Congress president, and an SC as chief minister, the Congress has taken a strategic call to play the caste card before the Assembly elections early next year," a political observer said.

Political analyst Professor Ashutosh of Panjab University said, "The Congress is trying to send a message of identity and symbolism across all states, especially Uttar Pradesh where elections are due early next year along with Punjab. UP has a big SC vote bank. Uttarakhand, too, is poll-bound and has some SC population. The Congress is clearly trying try to bring the SC vote bank back."

Messaging for UP

Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, who is in-charge of UP, is already trying to woo the SCs there. The Channi factor will send a positive message to the SCs in UP

"As far as Punjab is concerned, it is good move and will keep the infighting under control," he added.

Given the huge SC voter base in Punjab, the Shiromani Akali Dal-Bahujan Samaj Party combine has already promised to make a member of the community a deputy chief minister if voted to power.

As for the Aam Aadmi Party, it has given the post of the Leader of Opposition in Punjab to an SC, Harpal Singh Cheema, and promised the deputy CM's post to the community if voted to power in the elections.

CONTINUED ON: P7

ALL IS NOT WELL

Trouble in JDS makes HDK lean towards BJP

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI @Bengaluru

RISING troubles from within his party seem to have made senior JDS leader and former chief minister **HD Kumaraswamy** lean towards the ruling BJP in Karnataka.

It was quite evident when he stated on the floor of the Assembly recently that the increase in prices of petrol and diesel and essential commodities is inevitable, while the other opposition party Congress had stoked it as a major issue ahead of the legislature session that began on September 13.

The regional party has been suffering due to an open rebellion by its senior members, like MLA GT Deve Gowda – who represents the Chamundeshwari constituency in the old Mysuru region, and MLA K Srinivasa Gowda, who is from Kolar. The two legislators have hinted that they could join the Congress ahead of Assembly elections next year to protect their political future.

Joining this list of disgruntled leaders is former MLA and party senior N H Konareddy, who recently tendered his resignation as party national general secretary owning moral responsibility for the party's debacle in the Hubballi-Dharwad City Corporation elections.

Sensing the danger, Kumaraswamy called him and tried to persuade him not to leave the party.

Konareddy, besides Legislative Council Chairman Basavaraj Horatti, is a torchbearer for the party in North Karnataka. Horatti too spoke to Konareddy, sources said.

CONTINUED ON: P4

NATIONWIDE	SEP 17	SEP 18
Fresh cases	35,662	30,773
Recoveries	33,798	38,945
Deaths	281	309

KARNATAKA	SEPT 18	SEPT 19
Fresh cases	889	783
Recoveries	1,080	1,138
Deaths	14	16

Kohli to step down as RCB captain after IPL '21

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

VIRAT Kohli's journey as Royal Challengers Bangalore captain will come to an end after the conclusion of the ongoing edition of the Indian Premier League 2021 in the United Arab Emirates.

However, the 32-year-old confirmed, on Sunday, that he will 'play only for RCB until retirement'. "It wasn't an easy decision but one that has been well thought of and in the best interest of this wonderful franchise ... As I have mentioned previously on many occasions, I will only play for RCB until my retirement from the game of cricket," said Kohli, who has failed to win a single IPL title with the franchise so far. He made this official announcement a day before their match against Kolkata Knight Riders in the second leg of the IPL.

"I will only play for RCB until my retirement from the game of cricket"

Virat Kohli, RCB Captain

2 arrested for moral policing in Bengaluru

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

IN an incident of moral policing in Bengaluru, two youngsters stopped a biker, who was dropping home his woman colleague from another religion, and assaulted him while abusing the woman. Acting swiftly after the video of the incident went viral on social media, the Suddaguntepalya police arrested both the accused within 12 hours.

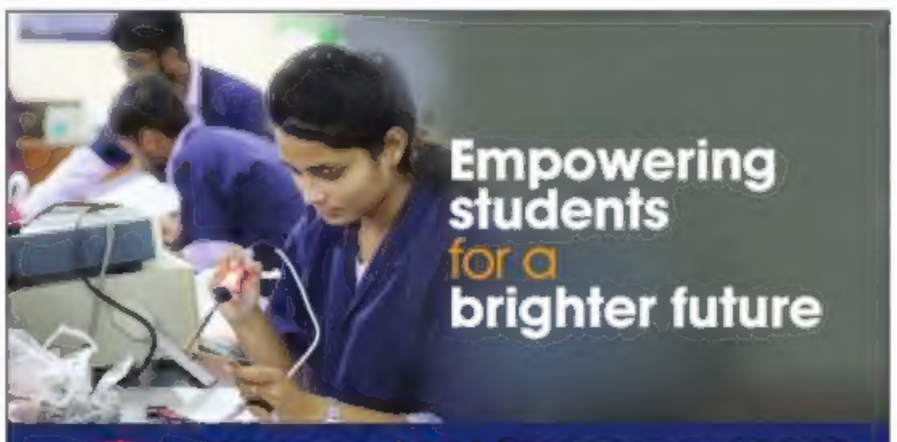
The incident took place near Dairy Circle on the busy Hosur Road on Friday night around 9 pm. In the video, the miscreants are seen asking the biker why he was dropping a woman belonging to another religion and assaulted him before warning him of dire consequences if he is seen with the woman again.

CONTINUED ON: P5

EXPRESS READ

Mahasabha leader held for threat to CM

MANGALURU: The Mangaluru police have arrested Dharmendra, state general secretary, Akhila Bharatha Hindu Mahasabha, for allegedly issuing death threats to CM Basavaraj Bommai over the demolition of a temple in Nanjangud. P4



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- Companies offering more than 10 LPA - 21

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